

HONORING ALAN ROBERT WILKIN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 5, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alan Robert Wilkin. Alan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alan has earned the rank of Assistant Patrol Leader. Alan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alan helped record names and other information for Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Kearney, Missouri in an effort to help genealogists and locate one particular lost plot for the trustees.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alan Robert Wilkin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF DR. DEAN WYATT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 5, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, Dr. Dean Wyatt. For 18 years, Dr. Wyatt worked as a public health veterinarian with the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. At great risk to his own career, Dr. Wyatt distinguished himself as an advocate of improved federal oversight of food safety and humane handling rules at regulated slaughter plants. His tragic death from a brain tumor is a terrible loss to the country.

I had the honor of receiving Dr. Wyatt's testimony before the House Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on Domestic Policy in March of last year. He stepped forward to call attention to animal cruelties that he had observed at federally regulated slaughter facilities and to deep-seated problems in USDA's enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.

Even after he was diagnosed with his fatal illness, Dr. Wyatt continued to advocate for reform. His proposal to establish an ombudsman at the agency, which USDA is now implementing, is just one of many ways he has made a lasting impact.

Dr. Wyatt's truth-telling did not make him popular with his agency superiors. Indeed, over the years he endured their disapproval and condemnation. Yet he spoke up: not just for animals but also for fellow inspectors and veterinarians in USDA. He spoke up for all of those who are dedicated to ensuring meaningful compliance with the law, over the resistance of corporate interests and, at times, the agency itself. He remained true to his mission

until his death. He will be deeply missed, and his spirit will live on as an inspiration to those whose lives he graced.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PRESERVATION ACT****HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 5, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to protect the integrity of the Social Security trust fund by introducing the Social Security Preservation Act. The Social Security Preservation Act is a rather simple bill which states that all monies raised by the Social Security trust fund will be spent in payments to beneficiaries, with excess receipts invested in interest-bearing certificates of deposit. This will help keep Social Security trust fund monies from being diverted to other programs, as well as allow the fund to grow by providing for investment in interest-bearing instruments.

The Social Security Preservation Act ensures that the government will keep its promises to America's seniors that taxes collected for Social Security will be used for Social Security. When the government taxes Americans to fund Social Security, it promises the American people that the money will be there for them when they retire. Congress has a moral obligation to keep that promise.

Everyone acknowledges that the federal deficits are unsustainable. Social Security reform is necessary to ensure the federal debt does not create a serious economic crisis that could devastate those, like Social Security recipients, living on fixed incomes. Preventing the use of Social Security trust fund monies for non-Social Security purposes is a necessary first step in reforming Social Security in a manner that does not hurt those currently relying on the system. I therefore call upon all my colleagues, to stand up for America's seniors and taxpayers by cosponsoring the Social Security Preservation Act.

**VOTING OPPORTUNITY AND TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT RIGHTS ACT****HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 5, 2011*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Voting Opportunity and Technology Enhancement Rights or VOTER Act of 2011. I introduce this legislation, more than 200 years after the founding of our democracy, because we have yet to realize a government that is truly representative of the principle, "of the people, by the people." Not until every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot and have that ballot counted, will we have a truly democratic government.

Though the 2010 elections did not present the widespread irregularities and improprieties that were witnessed during the 2000 and 2004 elections, it was still an election in which voter disenfranchisement was attempted and accomplished. Voters' names were still missing from voter rolls. Voter harassment and intimi-

dation complaints were still registered with Federal officials.

In fact, over the years, the methods that are used to disenfranchise voters have become more sophisticated as evidenced during the 2008 Election. For example, in my home state of Michigan, in the midst of the current subprime mortgage crisis, a strategy to challenge a voter's eligibility based on home foreclosure status was devised.

In Virginia, a flyer telling Democrats to vote on Wednesday, November 5, 2008, circulated. Similar tactics were present last fall, with complaints coming in from areas as diverse as Harris County, Texas, and even the state of Kansas.

We should recognize that anything short of a perfect election system is unacceptable and work on a bipartisan basis in seeking corrective action. To that end, I have introduced VOTER so that we may work towards a more perfect system, one that reflects legitimacy, integrity, and inclusivity. VOTER will protect and expand voting rights in Federal elections, as well as ensure the proper administration of Federal elections.

VOTER will: (1) provide for a uniform Federal write-in absentee ballot; (2) require states to provide for a verified audit trail; (3) count provisional ballots cast in the proper state; (4) properly allocate voting machines and poll workers; (5) provide for election day voter registration; (6) protect against improper purging of registration lists; (7) mandate early voting; (8) require verification and audit ability for punch cards; (9) simplify voter registration requirements; (10) allow voter identification by written affidavit; (11) provide for a study of nonpartisan election boards; (12) strengthen the EAC with funding and resources; (13) mandate the use of publicly available open source software; (14) restrict voting machine companies from engaging in political activities; (15) give greater deference to voter intent during recounts; (16) prohibit deceptive practices and intimidation; (17) prohibit caging and other questionable challenges; (18) restore voting rights to former felons; and (19) treat Election Day as a Federal holiday.

Some of these initiatives have already been implemented by states, the success of which was observed during the 2010 elections. There are 32 states that currently provide early voting, including Florida, a state that witnessed over 1 million voters turn out to the polls the weekend before the 2008 election. There are also 29 states that currently provide no-excuse absentee voting by mail.

Such practices were critical to managing an unprecedented voter turnout in the 2008 elections. More than 130 million people turned out to vote, the highest turnout in any presidential election. With this many longtime and new voters engaged in the 2008 election process, I suspect that voter participation will only increase in 2012.

As such, we must pledge to fight for election reform this Congress. The right to vote and to have that vote counted is one of our democracy's most fundamental principles. It is with VOTER that I intend to protect this fundamental principle, and I ask that my colleagues in this Congress join me in this fight for fair and just elections.

SUPPORTING THE JAMES  
ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COM-  
PENSATION ACT

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 5, 2011*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

We all know where we were on that fateful morning. If we were lucky, we were safe and with loved ones and far from Ground Zero.

But there are thousands of others who were not so fortunate, and who are reminded of those attacks every day—whether that's because they lost a family member or a friend, or because they cannot breathe after spending weeks cleaning the rubble of our fallen Twin Towers.

It is those first responders whose health we have a solemn obligation to watch over, and they number in the thousands—over 13,000 sick World Trade Center responders, more than 53,000 whose health is being monitored and 71,000 who were exposed to poisonous toxins.

They are firefighters, police officers, EMTs, construction workers and volunteers—just people who saw a fire and ran towards it to see how they could help—ran into the fire—and they remain in need.

They come from every single state in the Union and nearly every Congressional District. The health of these men and women is truly a national duty. With this bill, we can fulfill that duty.

It establishes the World Trade Center Health Program to monitor and treat responders whose injuries were caused by exposure to airborne toxins or any other adverse condition resulting from the attacks, and ensures that there is a network of health care providers around the country to care for anyone enrolled in the program. The bill also sets up the World Trade Center Survivor Program to provide screenings, treatment and follow-up monitoring to survivors and those living in the surrounding areas.

No one asked these men and women to go do what they did. They shouldn't have to ask us for quality health care. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote yes.

THE UDALL-EISENHOWER ARCTIC  
WILDERNESS ACT

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 5, 2011*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, on December 6, 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower set aside the core of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. In so doing, President Eisenhower began the bipartisan legacy of protecting this majestic national treasure. 20 years later, in 1980, Representative Mo Udall succeeded in doubling the size of the Refuge.

Now it is time that we finish the job these great Americans began 50 years ago. Now it is time to permanently protect the Coastal Plain. The Congress needs to pass legislation designating it as wilderness.

If we don't enact permanent protections for the Refuge, oil companies and their allies in Congress will continue to push for short-sighted plans to drill one of our last pristine wild places.

Just last year, the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster led to more than 4 million barrels of oil spilling into the Gulf of Mexico. It was the worst oil spill in the history of the United States. The blobs of oil washing up on Gulf beaches recalled the ghosts of Valdez, and of Santa Barbara.

As we learned from the BP oil spill, the oil companies are prepared to drill ultra-deep, but they are not prepared to do it ultra-safe. Or respond ultra-quick.

What we did discover is that their response plans for a Gulf oil spill included plans to evacuate walrus from the warm waters off Louisiana, even though they had not called the Gulf home for 3 million years.

This disaster was born from boosterism from the oil industry. Boosterism led to complacency. And complacency led to disaster.

When it comes to the Arctic Refuge, we've heard the same boosterism for years. The oil companies and their allies repeat a list of talking points: Drilling has a small footprint. It will not spoil habitats. Drilling can be done in an environmentally safe manner.

Now the oil companies and their allies want to open the Refuge and undo 50 years of protections and eons of solitude, all for less than a couple pennies at the pump more than two decades from now.

Instead of looking for the last drops of oil on Earth, we should be harnessing the wind and the sun to power our economy and create new, safe American jobs.

And unlike an oil well, you don't need a blowout preventer on a solar panel. There's no such thing as a "tragic wind spill."

When we look upon the Refuge decades from now, will we see a monument to America's commitment to our natural heritage, or will we see the abandoned wells and spilled oil as a monument to our insatiable thirst for oil? Will the Refuge remain a monument to America's wisdom or will our children and grandchildren only be able to see polar bears, caribou and other iconic animals carved in stone, monuments to our lack of foresight and innovation?

Now is the time to create a refuge for the American people from hundreds of billions of dollars we spend every year on foreign oil. Now is the time to create a refuge from the fossil fuel policies that have devastated the economy of the Gulf. Now is the time to protect the Arctic Refuge.

STATEMENT ON SENATOR  
BARBARA MIKULSKI

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 5, 2011*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, my colleague from the State of Maryland, becomes the longest-serving woman Senator in American history. It's a fitting milestone for a public servant who has been a trailblazer for her entire career. From her beginnings as a social worker and community activist, Senator MIKULSKI's career has

always been motivated by a deep commitment to open doors of opportunity, to serve the people of Maryland, and to carry their voices to Washington.

In 1986, Senator MIKULSKI became the first Democratic woman elected to the Senate in her own right, as well as the first woman elected to statewide office in Maryland's history. Since then, her constituents have returned her to office four times—a sign of the seriousness and skill she brings to her work in the Senate. For decades, BARBARA MIKULSKI has been an inspiration and a role model to women in public life, mentoring generations of women leaders. I congratulate her on today's important milestone, and I wish her all the best in her continuing service to our State and its people.

INTRODUCING THE IDENTITY  
THEFT PREVENTION ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 5, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Identity Theft Prevention Act. This act protects the American people from government-mandated uniform identifiers that facilitate private crime as well as the abuse of liberty. The major provision of the Identity Theft Prevention Act halts the practice of using the Social Security number as an identifier by requiring the Social Security Administration to issue all Americans new Social Security numbers within 5 years after the enactment of the bill. These new numbers will be the sole legal property of the recipient, and the Social Security Administration shall be forbidden to divulge the numbers for any purposes not related to Social Security Administration. Social Security numbers issued before implementation of this bill shall no longer be considered valid federal identifiers. Of course, the Social Security Administration shall be able to use an individual's original Social Security number to ensure efficient administration of the Social Security system.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a moral responsibility to address this problem because it was Congress that transformed the Social Security number into a national identifier. Thanks to Congress, today no American can get a job, open a bank account, get a professional license, or even get a driver's license without presenting his Social Security number. So widespread has the use of the Social Security number become that a member of my staff had to produce a Social Security number in order to get a fishing license!

One of the most disturbing abuses of the Social Security number is the congressionally authorized rule forcing parents to get a Social Security number for their newborn children in order to claim the children as dependents. Forcing parents to register their children with the state is more like something out of the nightmares of George Orwell than the dreams of a free republic that inspired this Nation's founders.

Congressionally mandated use of the Social Security number as an identifier facilitates the horrendous crime of identity theft. Thanks to Congress, an unscrupulous person may simply obtain someone's Social Security number